

55

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

PROCESSING COPY

COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

50X1-HUM

SUBJECT Fire Control Tactics of the 12th
Independent Air Artillery Observation
Squadron in Mierzecice

DATE DISTR.

26 NOV 1957

NO. PAGES

1

REQUIREMENT
NO.

RD

REFERENCES

DATE OF
INFO.PLACE &
DATE ACQ.

50X1-HUM

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

50X1-HUM

1.

a report containing information on the
fire control tactics of the 12th Independent Air Artillery Observation
Squadron in Mierzecice, Poland.

50X1-HUM

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

STATE	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	X	AIR	#X	FBI	AEC					

(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

20

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY : Poland DATE: 16 October 1957

SUBJECT : Fire Control Tactics of the 12th NO. OF PAGES: 2
Independent Air Artillery Observation
Squadron in Mierzecice, Poland.

50X1-HUM

General Information

1. The 12th Independent Air Artillery Observation Squadron (12 Eskadra Samodzielna Lotnictwa Artyleryjskiego) was stationed at Mierzecice Airfield near Mierzecice (N 50-27, E 19-08).¹ The mission of this squadron was to spot, direct and control artillery fire. This unit was equipped with 12 IL-10 aircraft and its overall strength was 114 men. The commander was Major Roman Harasimowicz.

Combat Exercises

2. There were two basic types of combat exercises in which the 12th IAAOS participated: major exercises, which took place once a year during annual joint maneuvers; and local exercises, which were accomplished in the vicinity of the airfield. Major exercises lasted approximately three months during which time each pilot and artillery observer of the squadron participated in approximately eight to 15 problems, each problem lasting from one to one and one-half hours. Local exercises took place once or twice weekly throughout the remainder of the year. During major exercises pilots and observers directed actual artillery fire, but in local exercises training grenades, resembling exploding artillery shells when detonated, were used.
3. One IL-10 aircraft, with pilot and observer, was assigned to one artillery unit for each problem. The size of the artillery unit varied from a platoon to an entire regiment, depending on the type of problem. However, during certain problems two aircraft were assigned to one unit; one directed the fire while the other observed from a higher altitude, standing by as replacement in case the spotting aircraft went out of commission.

Fire Control Tactics During a Typical Combat Problem

4. The pilot was instructed to arrive over the target area at a specific time. Enroute the artillery observer established radio contact with the ground radio station from which he received the general location of the target. The flight altitude to and from the target was from 300 to 400 meters. Upon arriving over the area, both the pilot and observer scrutinized the terrain for the target, which was usually a camouflaged wooden tank or cannon. The flight altitude during this operation was not prescribed; it was the pilot's prerogative to fly at the most convenient altitude in order to spot the target.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

COPY

-2-

Communications

- 50X1-HUM

